



Message from the CEO

In this edition of the **MainePERSpective Retiree Edition** we provide you with several important tax updates to consider as the 2025 income tax filing approaches, including a recent change in Maine law to the income tax and pension income deduction. Also, some tips to help avoid identity theft and guidance on how to report an occurrence. And, as always, enclosed is a 2026 calendar with the dates your benefit payments will be direct deposited into your account.

We hope you enjoy the celebrations of the season, and we wish you and yours a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Best regards,



Dr. Rebecca M. Wyke
Chief Executive Officer

Annual Notice of Right to Elect or Revoke Federal Tax Withholding

You have the right to decide whether or not you want federal income tax withheld from your monthly MainePERS benefit payment. When making your decision, remember that you are still responsible for payment of federal income tax on the taxable portion of your MainePERS benefit when you file your return. Not having enough tax withheld or paid during the year could leave you subject to tax penalties. You may change your current withholding election by sending us a completed *W-4P, Withholding Certificate for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments*, which you can find on the Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.gov or at www.mainebers.org/forms/retiree-forms/. No action is necessary if you do not wish to change your current federal income tax withholding.

1099-R Forms can be downloaded from the MainePERS Member Portal

In January of each year, MainePERS mails an Internal Revenue Service Form 1099-R to each person who received either a benefit payment or a refund of contributions in the prior calendar year.

For your convenience the form also may be accessed through the MainePERS Member Portal by mid-January 2026. You can locate your Form 1099-R by clicking on the Documents Tab and easily view the information or download the form.

If you have not registered for the Member Portal you may register at www.mainebers.org/memberportal. A handy guide is available to help with the process.

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RETIREMENT SERVICES

(207) 512-3158

EMPLOYER SERVICES

(207) 512-3200

GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

(207) 512-3244

DISABILITY SERVICES

(207) 512-3170

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 349

Augusta, ME 04332-0349

Location

139 Capitol Street, Augusta, ME

Phone

Main: (207) 512-3100

Toll-Free: 1-800-451-9800

Fax: (207) 512-3101

Maine Relay: 711

Public Business Hours

The MainePERS lobby is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Member Services Representatives are available to assist you by telephone, email and in person Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Published by Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS).

A printed version of the **MainePERSpective - Retiree Edition** newsletter is mailed out to retirees. We also email an electronic copy to retirees who have a current email on file with us. We hope to provide retirees with the option of selecting their preferred mode in the near future.

Recent Maine Law Change to Maine Income Tax and Pension Income Deduction

Individuals who receive MainePERS benefits and file their taxes in the State of Maine may qualify for a pension income deduction for all or part of their MainePERS benefit. The amount of the pension income deduction available is based on the maximum annual Social Security benefit for someone retiring that year at full retirement age reduced by any Social Security or railroad retirement benefits received.

For individual taxpayers, the maximum deduction for tax year 2025 is \$48,216. A new law phases out this deduction starting at adjusted gross incomes greater than \$125,000 for single tax return filers, \$187,000 for head-of-household filers, and \$250,000 for joint filers. This phase out applies for tax year 2025. Additional information is available at: www.maineper.org/retirement/benefit-payment-and-tax-information/, see Question 11.

Please note, a new Form W-4ME must be filed with MainePERS if you would like to change your state withholding. This form may be found at www.maineper.org/forms/retiree-forms/. If you have a tax preparer or advisor, they should be able to address any questions about the Maine pension income deduction. Questions also may be directed to Maine Revenue Services at 207-626-8475.

Gross Income Exclusion for Eligible Retired Public Safety Workers

Are you a retired public safety worker receiving your pension from MainePERS? Did you retire at or after your normal retirement age, or due to disability?

If you answered yes to both of these questions, you may be able to exclude up to \$3,000 from your gross taxable income for health insurance dollars you paid. Health insurance premiums deducted from your MainePERS benefit or paid directly by you to the insurer can qualify.

For more information, please see *IRS Publication 575* or contact a tax preparer or advisor.



Do we have your most current contact information?

MainePERS is seeking your assistance to ensure your contact information is up to date. Did you move since retiring? Has your email or cell phone number changed? Did you give up your landline? Having accurate information assists us in the verification process when you contact MainePERS and helps maintain the security of your account. It also ensures you receive critical information in a timely manner.

The quickest way to update your contact information is through the MainePERS Member Portal. Prefer to submit your information via mail? Complete the *Member/Benefit Recipient Data Update* form available at: www.maineper.org/forms-resources/forms/. Just complete and mail back to MainePERS at P.O. Box 349, Augusta, ME 04332-0349.

Identity Theft and Fraud Protection



In this highly digital world diligence is needed to protect against identity theft and fraudulent attempts to gain access to one’s personal and financial information. While many people think breaches of personal and financial information mainly happen through electronic means, such as malicious emails and fake websites, often low-tech contacts by telephone can provide an equally effective result in gaining someone’s personal or financial information.

The following state and federal government sites provide tips and tactics to help avoid becoming a victim of identity theft and guidance on how to report an occurrence (or attempt) of identity theft.

The Maine Attorney General’s Office has a wealth of information about actions you can take to help prevent identity theft and steps to take if you should unfortunately become a victim. (www.maine.gov/ag/consumer/identity_theft/identity_theft.shtml)

The U.S. Government provides information on how to identify the warning signs of identity theft, how to protect yourself, and where to report a fraud or fraud attempt, among other resources. (www.usa.gov/identity-theft).

The Federal Trade Commission website (www.identitytheft.gov/) offers similar assistance.

Interactions with MainePERS

When you contact MainePERS by telephone or visit us in person, we will take several steps to confirm your identity prior to releasing any personal or financial information that is considered non-public under Maine law. This verification is part of our security processes to safeguard your information.

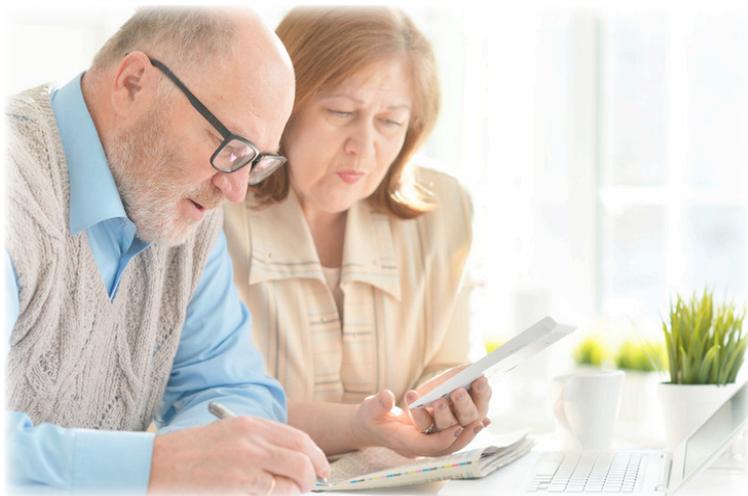
Another security process MainePERS may take is to call and complete an identity verification if you have recently filed a form to change your direct deposit account, a refund application, or any other form that may lead to a new or redirected payment on your account. Identity verification involves asking questions about you to ensure that you are the one who initiated the requested action. If you receive a call from MainePERS after filing a form and are uncertain about who is calling, you may hang up and call us back at one of our published phone numbers (see page 2) in order to proceed with validating the form.

If you initiate an email request for assistance involving personal or financial information, we will send a secure email and request that you do the same. You may send us secure emails using Mimecast, which is available on our website at www.maineopers.org/contact/. Secure email should always be used when sending us any personal or financial information.

Remember, if you are ever in doubt about any correspondence, email, or telephone call you receive from MainePERS, please take the extra step of contacting us at one of our published numbers to confirm.



Estate Planning and Your Beneficiaries



Losing a loved one is difficult, and navigating estate details can be confusing. Whether you are an active member, beneficiary, or retiree, consider including information about notifying MainePERS of your passing as part of your estate planning instructions. This will begin the process of ensuring proper distribution of any pension or group life insurance benefit to your intended beneficiaries. A new online form is available to help begin the process and can be accessed from the MainePERS homepage www.mainepers.org. Notification also may be made via telephone (207-512-3100) or email (survivor.services@mainepers.org).

Annual Review of Your Group Life Insurance Beneficiaries

If you participate in the Group Life Insurance program, it is important to be sure your beneficiary designation is up to date. Sometimes updates are needed after certain life events such as marriages, divorce, birth of a child, or the passing of a loved one. Reviewing your beneficiaries once a year when you are organizing other year-end financial information will help get your life insurance benefits to your intended beneficiaries as quickly as possible.

Need to make an update? Visit our website, www.mainepers.org/forms/, select Survivor Benefit Forms and download Form GI-0912, *Designation of Beneficiary - Group Life Insurance*.

Health Insurance Premiums and MainePERS

As a convenience for our retirees, health insurance premiums can be deducted from your monthly benefit payment and sent directly to your insurer if they are a MainePERS-approved vendor. MainePERS does not administer any health insurance programs. If you have questions about your health insurance coverage, please contact your health insurance program administrator. Two of the most common plan administrators are provided below for your convenience.

Maine Education Association - 888-622-4418 ext. 2207 - Web: www.meabt.org

State Retiree Health Office (Employee Health and Benefits) - 800-422-4503 or 624-7380 - www.maine.gov/deh

